CLAIMS

1-18 (Canceled)


19. (Currently amended) A method for recording and reviewing actions performed during development of software content created using a tool on a computer system having a processor and memory, said method comprising:

> receiving one or more user events during the development of the software
>> content;

> determining, automatically by the computer system in response to
>> receiving the one or more user events, which events and sequences
>> of events constitute actions;

> determining, by the computer system, whether an explanation
>> accompanies an action;

> recording the determined actions during the development of the software
>> content if a user preference specifies that the determined actions are
>> to be recorded; and

> recording the determined explanations such that a recorded explanation
>> of a recorded action is associated with the recorded action.


20. (Previously presented) A method as defined in claim 19, said method further comprising:

> receiving a user request for playback of recorded actions;

> accessing recorded actions and associated recorded explanations; and

> playing back recorded actions and any associated recorded explanations.

21. (Previously presented) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said

determining whether as explanation accompanies an action includes prompting

a user for an explanation with respect to an action being recorded.


22. (Canceled)


23. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored

thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method

comprising:

      displaying a starting state of multimedia content;

      determining automatically, by the computer, which recorded actions

           satisfy a specified criteria;

      identifying automatically, by the computer, a plurality of redundant

           determined recorded actions;

      summarizing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of redundant

           determined recorded actions to generate a summarized determined

           recorded action;

      replacing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of redundant

           determined recorded actions with [[a]] the summarized determined

           recorded action; and

      playing back a sequence of only those determined recorded actions in

           chronological order on an output device during a development of

           content.


24. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored

thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform a method comprising:

      receiving a user event during a development of content;

determining whether said received user event indicates a playback

request; and

if said received user event indicates a playback request, then

determining automatically, by the computer, which recorded

actions to play back by determining which recorded actions

meet a specified criteria,

identifying automatically, by the computer, a plurality of

redundant determined recorded actions,

summarizing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of

redundant determined recorded actions to generate a

summarized determined recorded action,

replacing automatically by the computer, the plurality of

redundant determined recorded actions with [[a]] the

summarized determined recorded action and

playing back those determined recorded actions and

if said received user event does not indicate a playback request,

then determining whether there is an action to record and

recording the action if it is determined that there is an action

to record during the development of the content.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored

thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method

comprising:

receiving a user event during a development of content;

determining whether said received user event indicates a playback

request; and

if said received user event indicates a playback request, then

determining automatically, by the computer, which recorded

actions to play back by determining which recorded actions

meet a specified fixed criteria, said fixed criteria being

selectable from a plurality of fixed criteria,

identifying <u>automatically, by the computer,</u> a plurality of

redundant determined recorded actions,

<u>summarizing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of</u>

<u>redundant determined recorded actions to generate a</u>

<u>summarized determined recorded action,</u>

replacing <u>automatically, by the computer,</u> the plurality of

redundant determined recorded actions with [[a]] <u>the</u>

summarized determined recorded action and

playing back those determined recorded actions and

if said received user event does not indicate a playback request,

then determining whether there is an action to record and

recording the action if it is determined that there is an action

to record during the development of the content.


26. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored

thereon executable computer program instructions, the executable computer

program instructions including an action class list and, when executed by a

digital processing system, causing the system to perform a method for playback

of actions from the action class list, wherein:

the action class list comprises a plurality of action class description fields,

each action class description field having a first field containing

data which specifies a particular action class and a second field

containing data which specifies a generic explanation of the action

class specified in the corresponding first field,

wherein the action class list is used during playback of actions, during a

development of content,

to identify, automatically, by the digital processing system, a

plurality of redundant actions,

to summarize, automatically, by the digital processing system, the

plurality of redundant actions to generate a summarized

action,

to replace automatically, by the digital processing system the

plurality of redundant actions with a summarized action

and

to determine an explanation associated with the action class of each

of the actions and to accompany the played back actions

with the determined explanations.

27.     (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as defined

in claim 26 wherein said second field identifies a software routine capable of

producing an explanation based upon properties of a recorded action.

28. (Currently amended) A method for playing back actions recorded during

development of content created using a tool on a computer system having a

processor, memory and an output device, the tool having a user-selectable

playback initiating mechanism for initiating the playback, said method

comprising:

displaying a starting state of the content; and

playing back recorded actions, during the development of the content, in

chronological order on said output device, an action from said

recorded actions comprising a sequence of at least one event,

wherein said at least one event is selected to constitute said action

based on a preset criterion, wherein a plurality of redundant

actions are <u>automatically</u> replaced <u>by the computer system</u> with a

summarized action and wherein the summarized action is played

back instead of the plurality of redundant actions <u>and wherein the</u>

<u>summarized action is generated automatically by the computer</u>

<u>system</u>.


29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein:

at least one action from said recorded actions is accompanied by an

explanation and said playing back further comprises playing back

any associated recorded explanations along with recorded actions.


30. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored

thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method

comprising:

displaying a starting state of content;

playing back recorded actions, during a development of content, in

chronological order on an output device, an action from said

recorded actions comprising a sequence of at least one event,

wherein said at least one event is selected to constitute said action

based on a preset criterion, wherein a plurality of redundant

actions are <u>automatically</u> replaced <u>by the computer </u>with a

summarized action and wherein the summarized action is played

back instead of the plurality of redundant actions <u>and wherein the</u>
<u>summarized action is generated automatically by the computer</u>.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30,
wherein:

> at least one action from said recorded actions is accompanied by an
> > explanation and said playing back further comprises playing back
> > any associated recorded explanations along with recorded actions.

32. (Currently amended) An apparatus for playing back actions performed
during development of content created using a multimedia creation tool on a
computer system having a processor and memory, said apparatus comprising:

> a user interface means for receiving user events, during the development
> > of the content, receiving user requests for playback of actions and
> > displaying recorded actions; and
> a playback module coupled to said user interface module for receiving
> > user request for playback of recorded actions and for displaying
> > playback of recorded actions, an action from said recorded actions
> > comprising a sequence of at least one event, wherein said at least
> > one event is selected to constitute said action based on a preset
> > criterion, wherein a plurality of redundant actions [[are]] <u>is</u>
> > <u>automatically</u> replaced <u>by the computer system</u> with a summarized
> > action and wherein the summarized action is played back instead
> > of the plurality of redundant actions, said playback in response to
> > such a user request playing back recorded actions <u>and wherein the</u>
> > <u>summarized action is generated automatically by the computer</u>
> > <u>system</u>.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

    at least one action from said recorded actions is accompanied by an

        explanation and said playing back further comprises playing back

        any associated recorded explanations along with recorded actions.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

    said playback is based on determining automatically which recorded

        actions satisfy a specified arbitrary criteria.

35. (Currently amended) A method for recording and reviewing actions
performed during development of content created using a tool on a computer
system having a processor and memory, said method comprising:

    receiving user events, during the development of the content;

    determining, automatically by the computer system in response to

        receiving the user events, which events and sequences of events

        constitute actions; and

    recording the determined actions rather than recording the individual

        events constituting those actions, during the development of the

        content if a user preference specifies that the determined actions are

        to be recorded.

36. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored
thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method
comprising:

    receiving user events, during a development of content;

determining, <u>automatically</u> by the computer <u>in response to receiving the</u>

<u>user events</u>, which events and sequences of events constitute

actions; and

recording the determined actions rather than recording the individual

events constituting those actions, during the development of the

content if a user preference specifies that the determined actions are

to be recorded.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 36,
wherein the operations further comprise:

determining whether an explanation accompanies an action; and

recording the determined explanations such that a recorded explanation

of a recorded action is associated with the recorded action if a user

preference specifies that the action is to be recorded.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 36,
wherein:

said determining comprises determining which events and sequences of

events constitute actions by applying one of a plurality of

granularities, said one of a plurality of granularities being selected

based on criteria, whereby said applied one of a plurality of

granularities varies depending on the criteria.

39. (Currently amended) An apparatus for recording and reviewing actions
performed during development of content created using a tool on a computer
system having a processor and memory, said apparatus comprising:

a user interface means for receiving user events which occur during

development of content; and

a recorder module <u>comprising hardware</u> coupled to receive user events

from said user interface means, said recorder module determining

<u>automatically in response to receiving the user events</u> which events

and sequences of events constitute actions and recording those

actions, if a user preference specifies that those actions are to be

recorded, said recorder module capable of recording an

explanation for each individual action, said explanations being

recorded in a manner which associates a recorded explanation of a

recorded action with the recorded action.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23,

wherein the specified criteria is a user specified criteria.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24,

wherein the specified criteria is a user specified criteria.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25,

wherein the specified fixed criteria is a user specified fixed criteria.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the preset criterion is

a user specified preset criterion.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30,

wherein the preset criterion is a user specified preset criterion.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the preset criterion is a user specified preset criterion.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 38, wherein the criteria is a user specified criteria.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 19, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the software content.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

51. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the played back action is an action that does not affect the content.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

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54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

56. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 36, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.